

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

OCTOBER 5 , 1960

The Commission of Fine Arts met, in a special session, pursuant to notice, in New York City, at the office of landscape architect member, Michael Rapuano, with Douglas W. Orr, Vice Chairman, presiding.

Others present were: William G. Perry
Ralph Walker
Michael Rapuano

L.R. Wilson, Secretary

The meeting was called after a public announcement in the newspapers by the General Services Administration on September 14, 1960 that construction bids would be asked for the building. On learning this news the members indicated to the Chairman that the General Services Administration and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation had not accepted the advice of the Commission in regard to the facade of the building made at the April 20, 1960 meeting, beyond adopting a recommendation for a setback from the building line.

EXHIBIT A

It appeared also that the building would be considered a governmental building by the District of Columbia Government and would not therefore require a building permit. No further opportunity would be given to review the design. The members still believed that the design of the building was unsuitable in character for such an important location near the White House on 17th Street, and that another attempt should be made to have the Commission's views accepted. Whereupon the Chairman took the matter up with Special Assistant to the President, David Kendall, and a special meeting was agreed to. New York was chosen as the site for the meeting.

EXHIBIT B

Mr. L. L. Hunter of the Public Buildings Service, General Services Administration, Mr. W. G. Loeffler of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the architects, Mr. Earl Gauger and Mr. Wilmont Vickrey, attended the meeting to consider further the design for the proposed building, on a site at Seventeenth Street and New York Avenue, N.W. The design was discussed with the architects and specific recommendations were made for changes which the members believed could be made to the facade with a minimum of delay to completion of the working drawings, now in an advanced stage. All the recommendations pertained to the treatment of the facade. The members considered that such changes as they had recommended would improve the design, but they also made it clear that they would have preferred a building of less commercial appearance for such an important location near the White House.

The Secretary was directed to prepare a letter to the Administrator of the General Services Administration setting forth the recommendations of the Commission.

EXHIBIT C

The Secretary also informed the members that Mr. Conrad Wirth, Director of the National Park Service, had shown the Chairman plans for an alternate site for the Headquarters Building of National Capital Parks in West Potomac Park between the golf course and the highway. The Chairman desired an expression of the members regarding the location now proposed in lieu of the site on the west side of 15th Street south of the Washington Monument. The members agreed that the steps to relocate the proposed building were encouraging but that they were not prepared to give assent to the new location without more detailed information.

The Secretary also requested the views of the members on S.L. 2237, 2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W. in which application was made to omit the terrace on the west from plans for the new wing of the National Academy of Sciences Building. The members considered that the terrace was an integral part of the original design of the building and should not be allowed to disappear at this time. They suggested informing the National Academy of Sciences and the architect, that the design of the building would suffer without the terrace, and to state that they were not prepared to approve the drawings as they were presented.

Respectfully submitted,

C. L. Martin

C. L. Martin, Counsel

Approved:

L. R. Wilson, Secretary

COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
MEETING AT 830 Third Avenue, New York, N. Y.
OCTOBER 5, 1960
2:00 P.M.
ORDER OF BUSINESS

*Monahan
Chairman
for the meeting.*

1. General Services Administration
Public Buildings Service

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Building

2. National Park Service
National Capital Parks

Headquarters Building

3. Shipstead-Luce Submission

S.L. 2237 - National Academy of Sciences, 2101 Constitution Ave., N.W.

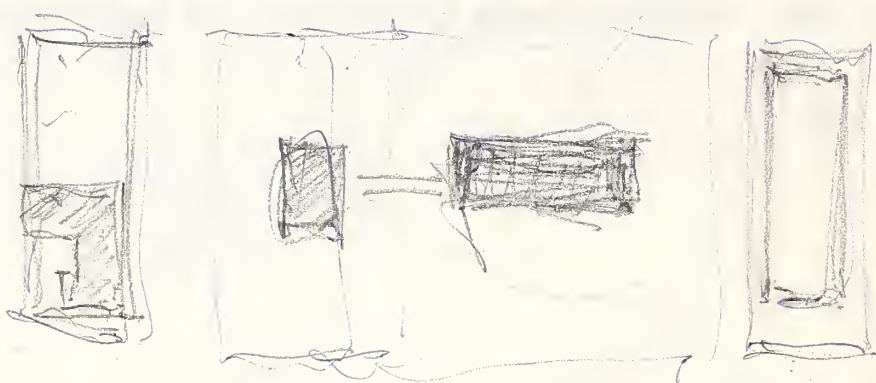
*Eisenhower
Colr*

Present

*CFR
Mr. [unclear]
Mr. [unclear]
Mr. [unclear]
Mr. [unclear]*

*CFR
Mr. [unclear]
Mr. [unclear]
Mr. [unclear]
Mr. [unclear]
Mr. [unclear]*

*Mr. [unclear]
Mr. [unclear]*



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COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
MEETING AT 330 Third Avenue, New York, N. Y.
OCTOBER 5, 1960
2:00 P.M.
ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. General Services Administration
Public Buildings Service

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Building

2. National Park Service
National Capital Parks

Headquarters Building

3. Shipstead-Luce Submission

S.L. 2237 - National Academy of Sciences, 2101 Constitution Ave., N.W.

- From J.H. Goodenough, 2/10/60*
1. Consideration of design, materials, details
Site plan, detail, character, general detail, 2 floor plan
 2. Typing, lettering, and drawing theme, copy
instruct in cost of copy
 3. Eliminate circular aspect & corners
 4. More light & color floor, more light
drawing, up on more story.
 5. More influence on the floor, more influence on the floor

FDIC, Product of New Deal, Gets a Home



Drawing shows the story building planned for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., on 17th st. nw., between New York

ave. and F st. It will be of reinforced concrete, with a gray granite or white marble facade, and parking spaces for 105 cars.

NOV 15 1960

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., one of the most important and unusual products of the famous first "100 days" of the first New Deal Administration, is finally about to put up a building all its own.

Bids will be invited today for construction of a seven-story building on 17th st. nw., between New York ave. and F st. It is expected the contract will be awarded next month and that work will begin early next year. Completion is hoped for by July, 1962.

The FDIC board of directors was all smiles yesterday at a press conference. They've paid \$1,590,000 for the site and have budgeted \$75 million for the structure, and none of it comes from the taxpayers. It comes from money the self-supporting agency earns from assessments on insured banks

and from investments.

The 435 employees of the FDIC have been occupying 3½ floors of the National Press Building and all of the adjoining Willard Building. It isn't enough space and more will be needed as the agency grows, spokesmen said.

Chairman Jesse P. Wolcott said the FDIC has nearly \$2.2 billion in its Deposit Insurance Fund, which represents the "excess of assessment and investment income over operating expenses, insurance losses and other costs . . ."

The FDIC insures bank deposits up to \$10,000 each in 98 per cent of the Nation's banks. It insures about 98 per cent of all individual accounts and 56 per cent of commercial accounts. It was conceived to protect depositors and the Nation's banking system.

The building, in the general style of the more modern Federal buildings, will be of reinforced concrete, with a gray granite or white marble facade. There will be a basement with 105 parking spaces for building occupants and with fall-out shelters for use by occupants and the general public in time of emergency.

The Commission of Fine Arts
7000 Interior Department Bldg.
Washington 25, D.C.

29 September 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD:

This morning, Mr. Wilson and I met with Mr. David Kendall of the White House staff and Mr. Fleete, Administrator of General Services, at Mr. Kendall's office in the White House. We stated the objections of the members of the Commission of Fine Arts to the design for the building for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation at 17th Street and New York Avenue, Northwest. I pointed out that the architects, Chatelain, Gauger & Nolan and Perkins & Will, had agreed to move the building back from the street so that it would be more in line with the Corcoran Art Gallery, the Pan American Union and other buildings on 17th Street. They had not accepted the advice of the Commission with reference to the facade of the building, or removing the piloti which, together with the narrow windows, seem unsuitable for a monumental building on 17th Street so near the White House, and in line with other such buildings on 17th Street.

We pointed out that the building is being erected with private funds although the General Services Administration is in charge of the construction; also that not being a federal building, it should conform to the Shipstead-Luce Act requirements and a permit should be obtained from the District Government. We had expected this would be done when we received a letter from the General Services Administration, and assumed that the recommendations of the Commission of Fine Arts would be incorporated in the architectural design.

Mr. Kendall telephoned to Mr. Jesse B. Welcott, Chairman, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and suggested that his architects meet with the architects and landscape architect of the Commission of Fine Arts in New York early next week and try to come to some agreement with regard to the design of the building. Mr. Fleete was entirely agreeable to this arrangement.

David E. Finley
Chairman

FOR INFORMATION

L. R. WILSON, SECRETARY
COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

EXHIBIT B

7 October 1960

Dear Mr. Floete:

The landscape architect and architect members of the Commission of Fine Arts were glad to meet, in a special session in New York City on 5 October 1960, with Mr. Hunter, officials of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and their architects, to consider further the design for the proposed building for that organization at Seventeenth Street and New York Avenue, N.W.

The members of the Commission individually stressed the importance of the site as part of the area adjacent to the White House, and then expressed their views as to why they considered the proposed design unsuitable in character for this sensitive location. After the full discussion with the designers, they made certain recommendations which they are sure can still be made to the facade, with minimum change and delay to completion of the working drawings that are now in an advanced stage. The changes that were recommended related exclusively to the appearance of the facade, inasmuch as a previous recommendation to set the building back from the building line had been carried out.

The recommendations were as follows:

1. That the material of the facades be darker in color, possibly granite, with simplification of the details around the windows. It was suggested that the windows surround be of bronze rather than stone.
2. That the top floors or cresting of the building be made more in classical proportions and more like a loggia; that the canopy be thinner and more supports introduced.
3. That the vertical rows of windows adjacent to each corner be eliminated.
4. That the design of the lower story be changed to give the effect that the columns are carried up into the second story in order to put greater emphasis on the height of the base. The elimination of the driveway from the Seventeenth Street side was strongly urged.
5. That architectural emphasis be given to certain elements of the facade, such as the windows of the board room or the important

offices, so as to reduce the monotonous rhythm of the window treatment.

The architects indicated that they would study the plans further, incorporating the above suggestions, and will present them at the next meeting of the Commission, which will be held on October 19, 1960. Time will be reserved for further consideration of these plans, if they are ready.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Honorable Franklin G. Floete
Administrator
General Services Administration
Washington 25, D. C.

Encl.	_____
Wm. C.	_____
Athen.	CHB _____
M. R.	Dir _____
B. R.	Sub _____
L. R.	_____
Shaw.	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

